



# WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Chairman Coleman  
Chairman Sharkey  
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

March 10, 2010

RE: Testimony for **H. B. No. 5383 AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Dear Chairman Coleman and Chairman Sharkey, and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in support of legislation regarding **Regional Economic Development** as noted in **HB 5383**.

We support the creation of **Regional Economic Development Districts** here in the State of Connecticut. We are currently the only state in the country that does not allow Economic Development Districts under the EDA model.

It is important to note that the WINCOG region has undertaken a regional economic development study as part of the legislature's Regional Performance Incentive Program and that this legislation supports that endeavor. WINCOG and NECCOG currently implement their Comprehensive Economic Development (CED's) Plan through a joint agreement between the two COG's, and have begun the process to become a recognized EDD district.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Paquette  
Executive Director, WINCOG

cc: WINCOG Board of Directors